

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 16 to 21 as follows:

Claims

Claim 1 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 16

Claim 2 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 17

Claims 3-5 (canceled);

Claim 6 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 18

Claim 7 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 19

Claims 8-10 (canceled);

Claim 11 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 20

Claim 12 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 21

Claims 13 – 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (new): A method for producing a lightweight starting stock for impact extrusion or impact forging comprising the following sequence:

- a) mixing alloying elements into aluminum with the alloy composition containing 6.3 to 10.0 wt% Zn, 1.0 to 3.0 wt% Mg, 0 to 2.5 wt% Cu and 0.02 to 0.5 wt% of at least one grain refining element selected from the group consisting essentially of Zr, Sc, Mn, Ti, Hf and casting said alloying elements to produce a billet,
- b) extruding said billet to provide and extruded starting stock for impact extrusion,
- c) annealing said starting stock to provide annealed starting stock for impact extrusion
- d) impact extruding said starting stock into an impact extruded component,
- e) solution heat treating and quenching said impact extruded component and
- f) aging said impact extruded component wherein said impact extruded component has a yield strength of at least 85 ksi.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 16 wherein said impact extruded component has a yield strength of >90 ksi.

Claim 18 (new): A method for producing a lightweight starting stock for impact extrusion or impact forging comprising the following sequence:

- a) mixing alloying elements into aluminum with the alloy composition containing 7.6 to 8.6 wt% Zn, 1.6 to 2.4 wt% Mg, 1.5 to 1.9 wt% Cu and 0.02 to 0.5 wt% of at least one grain refining element selected from the group consisting essentially of Zr, Sc, Mn, Ti, Hf and casting said alloying elements to produce a billet,
- b) extruding said billet to provide and extruded starting stock for impact extrusion,
- c) annealing said starting stock to provide annealed starting stock for impact extrusion

- d) impact extruding said starting stock into an impact extruded component,
- e) solution heat treating and quenching said impact extruded component and
- f) aging said impact extruded component wherein said impact extruded component has a yield strength of at least 85 ksi.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 18 wherein said impact extruded component has a yield strength of >90 ksi.

Claim 20 (new): A method for producing a lightweight starting stock for impact extrusion or impact forging comprising the following sequence:

- a) mixing alloying elements into aluminum with the alloy composition containing 5.0 to 7.0 wt% Zn, 1.8 to 2.2 wt% Mg, 0 to 0.50 wt% Cu and 0.02 to 0.5 wt% of at least one grain refining element selected from the group consisting essentially of Zr, Sc, Mn, Ti, Hf and casting said alloying elements to produce a billet,
- b) extruding said billet to provide an extruded starting stock for impact extrusion,
- c) annealing said starting stock to provide annealed starting stock for impact extrusion
- d) impact extruding said starting stock into an impact extruded component,
- e) solution heat treating and quenching said impact extruded component and
- f) aging said impact extruded component wherein said impact extruded component has a yield strength of at least 65 ksi.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 20 wherein said impact extruded component has a yield strength of >70 ksi.